



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 3 June 1968



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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
3 JUNE 1968

1. France

The situation continued to ease over the weekend. Militant students are still trying to generate greater interest in their campaign against the government, but non-Communist labor union leaders are optimistic about an early back-to-work movement.

The forthcoming parliamentary electoral campaign, which begins next Monday, is already diverting attention from the students and strikers.

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2. Italy

Some political leaders point to the spread to Italian cities of student violence inspired by the French crisis as good reason to maintain the government coalition of Christian Democrats and Socialists. Nonetheless, the Socialists' Central Committee has confirmed the party's decision to withdraw when Parliament convenes Wednesday.

Thus far, disturbances in Italy do not have a pronounced antigovernment flavor, and there has been little labor involvement.

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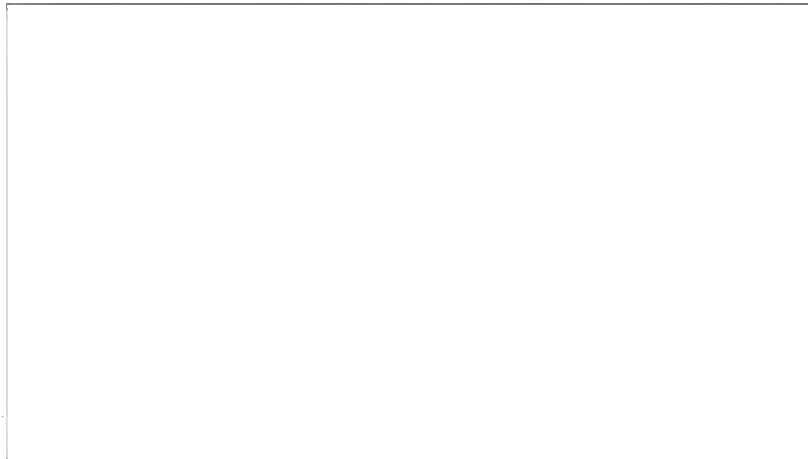
3. Czechoslovakia

All in all, Dubcek got what he wanted from the Central Committee session that ended Saturday. The most conspicuous examples of the old conservative regime were ousted from the party, and the groundwork was laid for removal of the rest. The party's intent to proceed with its liberalization program was reaffirmed, although it was pointed out that the problems facing the country would take time to resolve. The plenum set 9 September as the date for convening an extraordinary party congress which will elect a new Central Committee.

4. Jordan

King Husayn has begun to crack down on the terrorists in Jordan. The fight in Amman last week between his security forces and a new Syrian-backed group apparently has persuaded him to move against other terrorist elements as well. The question still is how vigorously he can press the campaign without pulling back troops from the cease-fire line with Israel.

5. Soviet Union - East Germany

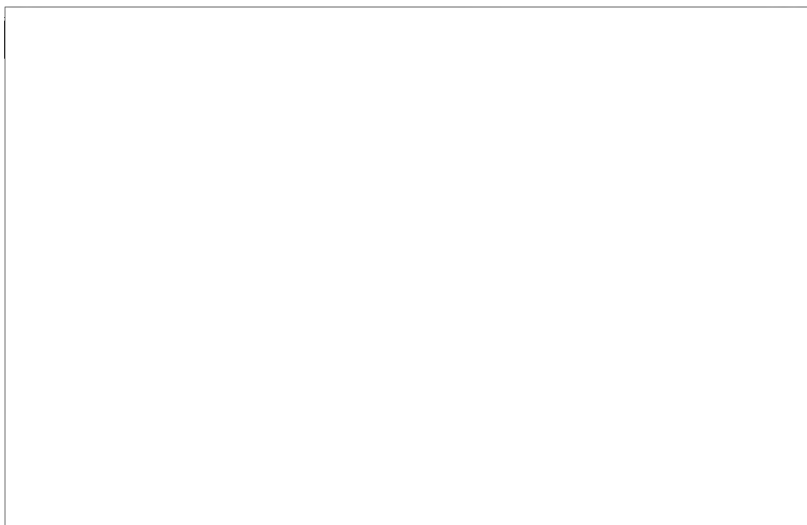


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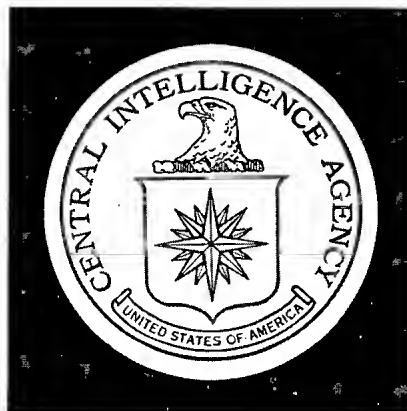
6. United Kingdom -
Common Market

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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

- 1.) Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
- 2.) North Vietnamese Reflections of U S
Political Attitudes



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Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
for the President's Eyes Only

3 June 1968

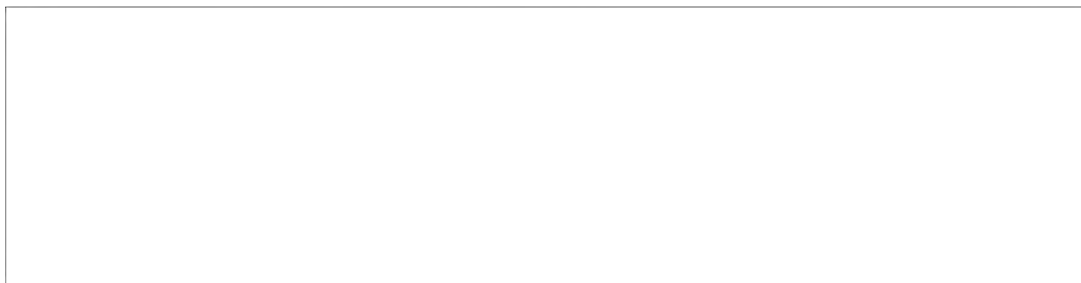
I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Hanoi on Bombing Halt: Hanoi has indicated that it is not demanding a de facto cessation of the bombing and other acts of war before moving on to other issues at the Paris talks. At the same time, however, the North Vietnamese are continuing to insist that the US must accept the North's terms for the cessation and are stressing that this bombing halt must be carried out rapidly.

This clarification of Hanoi's position was spelled out in an article by the authoritative writer "Commentator" in the party daily, broadcast on 1 June. In discussing the bombing question, Commentator used a new and more precise formula. He insisted that the US "must first of all clearly acknowledge its responsibility to put a definitive and unconditional end to the bombing and all other acts of war on all of North Vietnam before other problems can be discussed." Although a more precise reflection of Hanoi's position, the new formulation is consistent with the stance Hanoi has adopted on the bombing question at the Paris talks. Since the talks started, Communist spokesmen in both Paris and Hanoi have consistently argued that the bombing issue must be "determined"--implying that they mean settled or arranged but not actually implemented--and then other questions can be taken up. In the 31 May session of the talks, chief Hanoi spokesman Xuan Thuy used the "determined" formula several times, as he has on previous occasions

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Commentary on the French Situation: In a Nhan Dan article on 1 June, Hanoi modified its previously cautious approach to the French political crisis by giving a carefully worded endorsement of the "working classes' struggle" against the French administration. Hanoi charged the "monopoly capitalist class" with an attempt to maintain its privileges through "fascist" measures, but concluded with its conviction that the people would wage a "resolute struggle" to change the present policy and "lay the foundation for a bright future." In contrast to commentary from both Moscow and Peking which openly attacked De Gaulle, Hanoi, in its most substantive account of the crisis to date, refrained from mentioning the General by name.

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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL
ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

There is nothing of significance to report.

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